

National Climatic Data Center

DATA DOCUMENTATION

FOR

DATA SET 6403 (DSI-6403)

Weather Duration

December 11, 2002

National Climatic Data Center
151 Patton Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801-5001 USA

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1. Abstract: The Weather Duration data set contains a record of all weather events, for the reporting site. These reporting sites include all ASOS sites across the US. The beginning and ending time of the weather event is also reported.

Weather duration data are derived from DSI-6401 (Five-Minute Data). Currently, there are approximately 400 sites where five-minute data is ingested. This number is expected to grow to approximately 400 sites over the next few years. Weather duration data are used as input to create a climatological product known as the Monthly Airways Extract (MAE) for those sites.

See the ASOS web site at: <http://205.156.54.206/asos/index.html> for additional information.

2. Element Names and Definitions:

| Record Position | Element Name | Definition and Remarks |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1 - 5 | WBAN Number | Weather Bureau, Army, Navy, Number. Numeric string that uniquely identifies a fixed surface location at which the data are collected. |
| 6 - 9 | Call Sign | Alphanumeric string that uniquely identifies the fixed surface location at which the data are collected. |
| 10 - 11 | Record Type | Always "DW". |
| 12 - 12 | Correction Indicator | Not used. Always set to zero. |
| 13 - 18 | Date | YYMMDD (LST) |
| 19 - 20 | Literal | Operational record subset type. Always "27" |
| 21 - 22 | Filler | Blanks |
| 23 - 24 | # of Wea Dur Elements | Number of weather duration elements in record. |
| 25 - 33 | Wea Type | BLDU Blowing Dust BLPY Blowing Spray BLSA Blowing Sand BLSN Blowing Snow BR Mist DS Dust Storm DU Dust DZ Drizzle FC Funnel Cloud (Tornadic Activity) FG Fog FU Smoke FZDZ Freezing Drizzle FZFG Freezing Fog FZRA Freezing Rain |

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|----|---------------------------------|
| GR | Hail |
| GS | Small Hail and/or Snow Pellets |
| HZ | Haze |
| IC | Ice Crystals |
| PE | Ice Pellets |
| PL | Ice Pellets |
| PO | Well-Developed Dust/Sand Whirls |
| RA | Rain |
| SG | Snow Grains |
| SN | Snow |
| SQ | Squalls |
| SS | Sandstorm |
| TS | Thunderstorm |
| VA | Volcanic Ash |

34 - 37 Begin Time HHMM (LST)

38 - 41 End Time HHMM (LST)

42 - 279 Data in columns 25 - 41 may be repeated to accommodate up to a maximum of 15 weather duration elements.

****NOTE** Additional records may be added as needed.
 Record position 23 - 24 is the number of elements in each record.

3. **Start Date:** 19980601

4. **Stop Date:** Ongoing.

5. **Coverage:** North America and territories

- a. Southernmost Latitude: 18N
- b. Northernmost Latitude: 72N
- c. Westernmost Longitude: 171W
- d. Easternmost Longitude: 67W

6. **How to Order Data:**

Ask NCDC's Climate Services about the cost of obtaining this data set.
 Phone: 828-271-4800
 FAX: 828-271-4876
 E-mail: NCDC.Orders@noaa.gov

7. **Archiving Data Center:**

National Climatic Data Center
 Federal Building
 151 Patton Avenue
 Asheville, NC 28801-5001
 Phone: (828) 271-4800.

8. **Technical Contact:**

National Climatic Data Center
 Federal Building
 151 Patton Avenue

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:
:

Asheville, NC 28801-5001
Phone: (828) 271-4800.

9. **Known Uncorrected Problems:** None.

10. **Quality Statement:** The transmitting station does any quality control performed on this data. No quality control is done by the NCDC.

11. **Essential Companion Datasets:** None. This Weather Duration data set (DSI-6403) is one of several data sets used to create the DSI-6407 data set.

12. **References:**

Federal Meteorological Handbook 1b (FMH1b)

U.S. Dept. of Commerce, NOAA, 1998: **ASOS Users Guide**, Government Printing Office.

<http://205.156.54.206/asos/index.html> (ASOS home page)